Technology Mission for drinking water

1538. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleaed to sate:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a technology mission for drinking water;

(b) if so, when such a mission was constituted;

(c) what are the hterms of reference of the technology mission; and

(d) to what extent the mission has achieved its objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mission was launched in 1986.

(c) The main objective of National Drinking Water Mission is to provide adequate safe Drinking Water to the rural population and for this purpose to cover all residual problem villages numbering 1,37,155 as on 1.4.86, supply 40 litres per capita per day of Safe Drinking Water in all areas for human beings and in addition 30 litres per capita per day in desert areas for cattle; evolve cost effective technology and to achieve these objectives within the limits of plan allocation and take measures for sustained supply of water. Apart from the specific target to cover all the residual problem villages mentioned above, the Mission has taken up implementation of 55 Mini Mission projects in various States and Union Territories to act as pilot projects of a co-ordinated nature and Sub Missions on eradication of guineaworm, control of flourosis, desalination of water, removal of excess iron and scientific source finding and conservation of water.

(d) The actual achievement at the end of the year 1990-91 was coverage of 1,31,822 'No Source' problem villages against the target of 137155 problem villages. In addition 104 Desalination Plants, 3568 Iron Removal Plants and 168 Defluoridation Plants have been set up so far. Under Eradication of Guineaworm, the number of affected cases have been brought down from 23070 on 1-1-1986 to 1849 and affected villages from 7102 to 1939 by June, 1991. 4798 stepwells have been converted into sanitary wells and works for 256 step wells conversion are in progress. Satellite imagaeries were prepared for 447 districts for scientific source finding.

Rise in the prices of coconut oil

1539. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rise in the prices of coconut oil at the end of June, 1991;

(b) what are the main causes for the rise in the prices of coconut oil; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to contain the prices of coconut oil and ensures its availability to the consumer at a reasonable rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The wholesale price index number of coconut oil as on 29-6-91 was higher by 3.7 per cent over 26-1-91.

(b) The main factors contributing to the rise in the prices of coconut oil are attributed to general upsurge in edible oil prices, virtual stagnation in coconut oil production coupled with gap between demand and supply (edible oil as a whole) because of limited imports of edible oils, on account of balance of payment constraints.